

"Life is pretty hard but, now, we get what there is " In the mam, they saw the "key people", the people whose hands are on the levers What they primarily looked at and sought to comprehend, was the actual working of a new form of democracy which cannot, as a "going concern, be judged on its resemblances to or differences from, British democracy British democracy, they found, is, by the Russians, dismissed as "atomised " They defend their own form as ensuring "universal participation " As he put it in his lecture to the Fabians, the people "are consulted no end, and they like it but," he went on, "the whole thing is settled over their heads " As they see it, four great concrete blocks constitute the structure of the Soviet State, and provide, though an elaborately indirect system, for the representation of the people They elect, first, on a territorial basis, second, on a functional one, as Trade Unionists —("Though in theory membership of a Trade Union is not compulsory, it is impossible to be comfortable without joining the Trade Union "), third, and fourth, as consumers, either through the Consumers Co-operative Societies, or the Producers Co-operative Societies The steel frame supporting these * concrete blocks' is the Communist Party, which is "not a Party, still less, in any sense in which we know the thing, a Communist Party " Behind that Communist Party—small, rigorously and repeatedly purged, entered by a most severe selective process, committed to an iron discipline, lies a

moral code, still in the making, whose virtues
and whose
sins alike are social, as are its sanctions The
good Commun-
ist does not drink or smoke, he has only
recently been per-
mitted to wear a collar, if he wastes time on
women, he is
admonished, and knows well what
admonishment means,
since he lives in constant fear of "deviation"
with conse-
quent delation and expulsion He—or she,
since the equality
of men and women is a solidly accomplished
fact—is apt to
be a "prig of the first water " But he is
animated by an